



10/26/05

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

SB 175 (Brown)

WAL-MART TAX BREAK

SB 175 would allow for commercial distribution centers to qualify for industrial facilities development districts. Specifically, the bill would allow commercial property to be a part of the industrial facilities development district.

Oppose: Department of Treasury, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 876, AFL-CIO, UAW, SEIU -- SB 175 would allow the government to subsidize so-called "big-box" stores, such as Wal-Mart, that traditionally build their warehouses where they are needed, regardless of whether they receive tax breaks from the community. In their zeal to attract warehousing jobs, some local governments will bid against each other to give these large retailers tax abatements for locating in their communities, despite the fact that the locating of such warehouses is usually dictated by logistical issues and not local tax rates.

- Brown 1 (S-1) was withdrawn.
- CHERRY 1A (1 amend) was defeated [RC 530: 18 yes, 20 no (gop)]. This would require higher wages. The bill as passed by the Senate required as an eligibility criterion that the facility pay an average weekly wage to its employees equal to or exceeding the average weekly wage paid to residents of the county where the facility is located. The House substitute deleted this requirement. The Cherry amendment would return the wage requirement (i.e., require higher wages).
- Brown 2 (S-2) was adopted [no RC].
- BASHAM 2A (1 amend) was defeated [no RC]. Tie-bar to SB 734 (BASHAM) – Bill to require deadbeat companies, like Wal-Mart, would have to provide at least 8% of their payroll in health care benefits.
- The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 175, as amended by the Senate [RC 531: 22 yes, 16 no].

FINAL PASSAGE

HB 4315 (Hoogendyk)

HB 4316 (Gaffney)

HBs 4315-17 would allow county road commissions to have not less than three members or more than five. In other words, the bill House would allow, but not require, the expansion of road commission boards to up to five members.

HB 4315:

- *Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (10/20)*
- *HB 4315 was moved to 3rd Reading.*
- *Gilbert 1 (1 amend) was adopted [no RC].*
- *HB 4315 passed with IE [RC 533: 32 yes, 6 no].*

HB 4316:

- *Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (10/20)*
- *HB 4316 was moved to 3rd Reading.*
- *Gilbert 1 (1 amend) was adopted [no RC].*
- *HB 4316 passed with IE [RC 534: 32 yes, 6 no].*

HB 4968 (Schuitmaker)

HB 4968 would make miscellaneous amendments to the Estates and Protected Individuals Code endorsed by the State Bar of Michigan.

- *HB 4968 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments. (10/20)*
- *HB 4968 passed with IE [RC 535: 38 yes, 0 no].*

HB 5253 (Acciavatti)

HB 5253 would remove the distribution formula located in current revenue sharing law so every city, village, and township would receive the same amount in revenue sharing as distributed in 2004-05. The bill also contains provisions that would ensure a uniform percentage reduction for each city, village, and township, if actual sales tax revenue and, therefore, revenue sharing payments are below the August 2005 state consensus revenue estimate.

- *HB 5253 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments. (10/25)*
- *HB 5253 passed with IE [RC 532: 38 yes, 0 no].*

THIRD READING

SB 654 (Toy)

HB 4729 (Tobocman)

SB 654 would add the felony of "purchase of public residential property by public servant" to the sentencing guidelines. The offense would be a felony against public trust with a statutory maximum sentence of one year's imprisonment.

- *SB 654 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.*

HB 4729 would allow employees of villages and cities to buy up to four parcels of residential property owned by their employing entity. Reportedly, about 10,000 people a year move out of Detroit. With so many residential properties being offered for sale each year, the city is finding it difficult to sell off the almost 40,000

properties it has acquired through tax foreclosures. Many of these properties were abandoned. Some have structures still standing, albeit in need of significant repair, and others are empty lots – their houses long ago burned down or demolished. Left as is, these properties attract vagrants and criminals, or get used as mini-dumps. In short, they add to neighborhood blight. It is believed that if city employees could bid on these properties at tax lien sales, it would be a win-win situation for the city and the employee. The employee would be able to purchase land inexpensively (since these properties are in blighted areas, property values are low) in the community where he or she works and either renovate the existing structure or build a new house if the lot is vacant.

- **HB 4729 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.**

SB 747 (Gilbert)

HB 5148 (Pavlov)

HB 5149 (Acciavatti)

SB 747 would: 1) Allow the disposal of liquid waste in landfills under certain conditions. 2) Delete a provision that allows the disposal of green glass in landfills until June 1, 2007. 3) Prohibit the disposal of yard clippings in an incinerator, unless they were diseased or infested.

- **Committee 1 (S-2) was adopted.**
- **SB 747 was moved to 3rd Reading.**

HB 5148 would allow for the establishment of landfill research, development, and demonstration projects. Aside from bioreactor landfills, the bill would encourage the development of other innovative methods of disposing of municipal solid waste. These demonstration projects may ultimately lead to alternative approaches that improve air and water quality.

- **Committee 1 (S-1*) was adopted.**
- **HB 5148 was moved to 3rd Reading.**

HB 5149 would allow landfill research, development, and demonstration projects to accept septage waste. Traditional landfills are generally designed to limit the entry of water into the landfill, as a way to minimize the potential for groundwater contamination stemming from the seepage of landfill waste. This process, often known as the “dry tomb” approach, slows the biodegradation process. However, emerging research has shown that the addition of air or liquids, such as septage waste, into the landfill has the potential to accelerate or enhance degradation and lower the post-closure period compared to the traditional dry tomb approach.

- **HB 5149 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.**

SB 764 (Allen)

SB 764 would create the "Purple Heart Recognition Act" to require the erection of a monument to honor Michigan citizens who have received the Purple Heart Medal. The monument would have to be located in Veterans Memorial Park in Lansing. The monument and all expenses associated with its erection would have to be paid for by the Michigan Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The monument would have to conform to the style and design established by the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America.

- **SB 764 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.**